

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1 – 12, 14 – 27, 31 – 35, and 39 have been allowed and that Claims 28 – 30 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph.

This application was filed with 39 claims. Claims 1 – 12, 14 – 27, 31 – 35, and 39 have been allowed. Claims 28 – 30 were rejected as being indefinite but have now been amended to be allowable. Claim 14 has been amended to overcome an objection as to informalities. Claims 13 and 36 – 38 have been rejected and have now been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1 – 12, 14 – 35, and 39 are currently pending and are either allowed or allowable. Since all pending claims are either allowed or allowable, Applicant request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Claim Objections - Informalities

Claim 14 has been objected to because of the following informality: at line 15, "OF" was capitalized. Claim 14 has been amended to recite the non-capitalized "of." Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claim 14 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 28 – 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph as being indefinite in that Claim 28 recites the limitation "the lower filtration barrier" in line 15 without sufficient antecedent basis for this limitation. Claim 28 has been

amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the limitation. Claims 29 and 30 have been amended to recite proper dependence upon Claim 28. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 28 – 30 under § 112 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 13 and 36 – 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McGinn (U.S. Patent Number 6,497,532). In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Claims 13 and 36 – 38 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

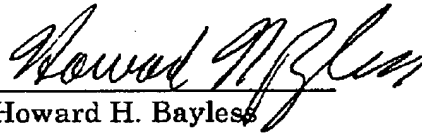
Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 1 – 12, 14 – 27, 31 – 35, and 39 have been allowed. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 28 – 30 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph. Claims 28 – 30 have been so amended. Thus, Claims 1 – 12, 14 – 35, and 39 are currently pending and are either allowed or allowable. Since all pending claims are either allowed or allowable, Applicant requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant has commented on some of the distinctions between the cited references and the claims to facilitate a better understanding of the present invention. This discussion is not exhaustive of the facets of the invention, and Applicant hereby reserves the right to present additional distinctions as

appropriate. Furthermore, while these remarks may employ shortened, more specific, or variant descriptions of some of the claim language, Applicant respectfully notes that these remarks are not to be used to create implied limitations in the claims and only the actual wording of the claims should be considered against these references.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Response and Amendment is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on March 10, 2005.

Howard H. Bayless



Signature

Registration Number 51,245

3/10/05

Date